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Agenda item 1
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Update on activities planned or undertaken in the respective areas pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/245 B

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 55/245 B of 25 July 2001, the General Assembly requested the Financing for Development Coordinating secretariat to monitor and report on various activities being carried out in the context of the preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development, including the launch of a global public awareness campaign, concrete initiatives considered by various stakeholders in support of the process and the Conference, and the development of a programme of work with the business sector, covering the period from May 2001 to the Conference.

2. The present note provides an update on activities planned or undertaken in the respective areas pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/245 B. More detailed information may be found on the financing for development web site, http://www.un.org/ffd.

II. Global public awareness campaign

3. In keeping with the request to the Secretary-General to promote public awareness on financing for development, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat has developed a comprehensive communication plan for the global awareness campaign covering the critical period following the October 2001 resumed third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, and through to the Conference itself and its follow-up. The plan focuses on outreach to four key sectors: experts and policy makers; civil society; the business community and financial press; and the mass media.

4. Since May, a design motif for publicity materials and a glossy brochure highlighting the six main agenda items have been produced, and the web site for the Conference is being revamped. The brochure has been distributed through information centres worldwide. A press kit and audio-visual as well as additional printed materials will be produced before the end of the calendar year, and a task force of information officers from United Nations organizations and the Bretton Woods institutions will be established. The close involvement of United Nations information centres and regional commissions in promotion of financing for development issues will be continued.

5. In addition, international publicity for the issues on the Conference agenda was obtained by an extensive global publicity campaign for the launch of the report of the High-Level Panel on Financing for Development (see A/55/1000), chaired by former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. Efforts are ongoing through the press and other media to better acquaint policy makers and the wider public with the thrust and content of the report.

III. Concrete initiatives by Governments and other relevant stakeholders

A. Governments

6. A growing number of Governments have exhibited a greater awareness of and interest in the financing for development process as well as a willingness to involve their finance ministries and central banks in forthcoming sessions of the Preparatory Committee. Several Governments have taken initiatives to organize coordinating meetings on financing for development, involving various ministries/departments. Some have taken steps to broaden their outreach and dialogue with domestic civil society and business representatives, inter alia, through national seminars.

7. The intergovernmental Group of 24 organized a workshop on financing for development on 6 and 7 September 2001. A report emanating from the workshop is expected to be made available to delegations.

B. Major institutional stakeholders

8. The Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries (Development Committee) was scheduled to consider financing for development as a main item on the agenda of its September 2001 meeting, which has had to be postponed. The report prepared jointly by the staffs of the Bank and the Fund was considered by the Boards of both institutions and has now been issued as a Development Committee paper. It is still possible that the Development Committee will be able to discuss this

paper before the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee and could then issue a communiqué, outlining its views on several issues pertinent to the financing for development agenda.

9. Following the meetings of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee with the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank in March 2000 and February 2001 and its meeting with the IMF Executive Board in February 2001, it was agreed that a further meeting with each of the Boards would be desirable in advance of the Conference. It is expected that such meetings will take place prior to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

10. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has planned a series of activities in the lead-up to the Conference (see annex I). The Trade and Development Board will discuss the reform of the international financial architecture at its next session in October 2001. UNCTAD also plans to hold a two-day seminar on market access in January 2002. The realization of some of the activities identified will depend on the availability of funding.

11. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working on a number of initiatives at the global, regional and national levels to support preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development. At the global level, UNDP is pursuing its activities on global public goods, inter alia, as regards possible new and additional sources and arrangements of funding. A series of publications and further discussion in the context of the financing for development process are expected in the last quarter of 2001. In this regard, UNDP, with the support of the Government of France, will host a special event on "Financing Global Public Goods" on 16 October 2001 at United Nations Headquarters. UNDP also aims to hold a High-level Consultation on Financing for Development in January 2002 with a view to identifying resource and capacity-building needs of developing countries, in respect of meeting the millennium development goals.

12. At the regional level, UNDP has developed with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) a project for the support of regional consultations in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, in November 2001. At the national level, UNDP country offices are supporting multi-stakeholder meetings to assist in the development of national positions on issues and recommendations before the Conference.

C. Other United Nations system institutions

13. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is in the process of organizing an event on "Financing for Alleviation of Poverty and Food Insecurity" in the context of the financing for development process. It is expected that traditional and innovative mechanisms of financing will be explored. The timing of this event will be announced in due course.

14. IFAD intends to make a contribution to the International Conference on Financing for Development centred around an in-depth analysis of the topic of "Financing for Rural Development". IFAD will structure the discussion of its upcoming Governing Council to address this theme in February 2002. The process will culminate in the development of a comprehensive policy paper on the subject of financing for rural development that will be presented by IFAD at the March 2002 Conference. IFAD hopes that this paper will build on the success of its *Rural Poverty Report, 2001: The Challenge of Ending Rural Poverty* (available at http://www.ifad.org/poverty/ch.cont.pdf (New York, Oxford University Press, 2001)), through increasing awareness of the rural sector and the needs of the rural poor.

15. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) sponsored a seminar organized by Red de Educación Popular entre Mujeres (REPEM) and the Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) on "Financing for development: new trends, new forms of exclusion and strategies for the women in the region". The seminar was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 15 to 17 July 2001.

D. Regional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies

16. A joint meeting of the regional commissions on financing for development will be held in Mexico City

from 14 to 15 January 2002 with the aim of arriving at an interregional perspective on various issues on the agenda. The meeting will further review selected key policy recommendations emanating from the regional consultations held in 2000 and examined in depth at the regional expert meetings scheduled for 2001.

17. In addition to the proposed joint meeting, individual regional commissions are undertaking or have planned a set of activities related to the financing for development preparatory process. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is organizing a second regional meeting in Africa to be held on 26 and 27 November 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting is expected to undertake a deeper analysis of key issues of interest to Africa coming out of the first regional meeting held in November 2000 in Addis Ababa, and to elaborate a number of concrete measures and proposals for action.

18. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in conjunction with the Asian Development Bank, is organizing a Workshop on Mobilizing Domestic Finance for Development: Reassessment of Bank Finance and Debt Markets in Asia and the Pacific. The Workshop, tentatively scheduled for 22 and 23 November 2001, will discuss from an ESCAP perspective: (a) post-crisis bottlenecks in the bank lending for development projects in the region, (b) developing/strengthening bond markets to diversify long-term development finance and (c) financing for microenterprises, small and medium-sized businesses and poor households.

19. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), in collaboration with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, is organizing a one-day expert meeting on 3 December 2001 in Geneva. The meeting will look at ways of enhancing the benefits of foreign direct investment (FDI) and improving the flow of corporate finance in the transition economies. It is expected to formulate a set of concrete policy recommendations in this regard.

20. ECLAC organized a first Latin American Colloquium on Development Banks in August 2001. The colloquium took place at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. The Commission is also planning a regional experts meeting on financing for development to be held in November 2001 in Santiago. The aim is to prepare a set of technical recommendations in the areas of emergency financial support, private participation and the provision of external liquidity, financial regulation and supervision for the promotion of external stability, the role of regional and subregional financial institutions in the prevention of crises in the external sector, and multilateral development banks and the promotion of access to large-scale external financing. Recommendations and proposals developed at this meeting will be distributed to Governments of the region with the aim of supporting proposals to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

21. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized a round-table meeting on 7 June 2001 to discuss the Secretary-General's report to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (A/AC.257/12) and to suggest preparations to be made by ESCWA for the Conference. This was followed by an expert panel held on 6 July 2001 to discuss the findings of the June meeting and to agree on issues to be dealt with in working papers within the framework of financing for development. Among the issues agreed on were those pertaining to Arab banking and financial systems; microfinance; debt; investment; and trade. Subsequently, a regional meeting on financing for development was held in Beirut from 11 to 13 September 2001. The meeting was attended by representatives of regional banks, chambers of commerce and industry, academics, governmental officials and representatives of the private sector.

E. Civil society

22. The Financing for Development Coordinating secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, disseminated, through newsletters, direct mailing, Internet and emails to over 10,000 civil society organizations and networks, the text of General Assembly resolution 55/245 B, paragraphs 8 and 9, and invited them to report on concrete initiatives carried out in support of the financing for development preparatory process and the Conference, within the framework of its substantive agenda.

23. The compilation reflected in annex II is based on the reports received and is not exhaustive. It is organized by activities carried out or planned by organizations/networks, considering the period from May 2001 to March 2002 as the time frame. More details on the information submitted by civil society

organizations will be made available on the Internet at http://www.un.org/ffd.

IV. Programme of work for the business sector

24. As required by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/245 B, the Financing for Development Coordinating secretariat is assisting the efforts of the business sector to set in motion a programme of activities organized by various interlocutors in the lead-up to the Conference in March 2002. Annex III provides a tentative timetable of these activities. The secretariat will continue to assist and advise in the implementation of these activities as well as monitor their outcomes. In addition to the activities mentioned in annex III, it may be noted that consideration is being given to the possible incorporation of financing for development in the agenda of the World Economic Forum annual meeting to be held at Davos, Switzerland, in January/February 2002.

25. Both directly and through the various interlocutors, the secretariat has also encouraged business sector entities to seek accreditation to the financing for development process in order to be able to participate in the forthcoming Preparatory Committee meetings in October 2001 and January 2002 as well as in the Conference in March 2002.

V. Other preparatory activities

26. The different departments of the secretariat involved in the organization of the Conference undertook a planning mission to Monterrey from 30 July to 2 August 2001, visited the proposed Conference site and other local facilities, and held discussions with Mexican authorities on preparations for the Conference. It is expected that the host country agreement between the United Nations and the Mexican Government will soon be signed.

Annex I

Activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Date and venue	*Title of event and outcome*	*Web page*	*Financing for development theme(s)*
6 and 7 September 2001, New York	Presentation at the Intergovernmental Group of 24 (G-24) workshop on financing for development		All themes
27 September 2001, New York	Briefing of G-77 on UNCTAD's *World Investment Report, 2001* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.II.D.12) (promoting backward linkages) and activities to promote long-term private flows, especially FDI, in relation to the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.257/12) of 18 December 2000 to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its second substantive session on measures and policies to maximize the development impact of FDI	http://www.unctad.org Publications and documents: UNCTAD/WIR/2001	2 and 6
1 and 2 October 2001, Geneva	Trade and Development Board (forty-eighth session): agenda item 3: Reform of the international financial architecture	http://www.unctad.org See Trade and Development Board agenda (TD/8/48/1) Publications and documents: *Trade and Development Report, 2001* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.II.D.10) (UNCTAD/TDR(2001)), part two entitled "Reform of the international financial architecture"; press release TAD/INF/PR12	All themes
January 2002, New York	Two-day seminar on market access (tentative dates, 21 and 22 January 2002)	http://www.unctad.org	3 and 6
Late 2001, New York	Two-day seminar on key issues emerging in preparatory process of financing for development of interest to Preparatory Committee members Nota bene: subject to availability of resources	http://www.unctad.org	All themes
March 2002, Monterrey	UNCTAD/International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Forum on FDI and development Nota bene: subject to availability of resources	http://www.unctad.org	2 and 6

Annex II

Civil society initiatives reported in the context of financing for development

Civil society initiatives have been reported as follows:

- In May 2001, a Mexican NGO Organizing Forum was created, consisting of six Mexican civil society networks representing multiple national and international organizations, supported by an International Steering Committee consisting of 10 diverse thematic international networks participating in the financing for development process. The Mexican NGO Organizing Forum, in consultation with the International Steering Committee and other international networks, decided to organize in Monterrey, a week prior to the International Conference on Financing for Development, an NGO Forum of the International Conference on Financing for Development (final dates and location are yet to be finalized by the Organizing Committee and the Mexican Government). The NGO Forum will have a thematic structure based on the agenda of the official Conference, including intersections with other themes such as gender, environment, labour, and economic and social rights. Email: pueblodip@laneta.apc.org *or* alcadeco@infosel.net.mx;

- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), actively involved in the financing for development process since its inception, organized a colloquium (Mohonk Mountain, New Paltz, New York, 17-19 June 2001) that brought together representatives of the official stakeholders, Governments, the United Nations Secretariat and civil society to discuss substantive elements and potential outcomes of the Conference;

- Institute for Development Studies, Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, held a brainstorming meeting in London (10 July 2001) among the British private sector, public sector and academics to highlight those issues that they think should be key for the financing for development process;

- Reality of Aid Asia Network and the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) organized a conference on "Official development aid in Asia" (Manila, Philippines, 18-20 July 2001). Web page: http://www.aprnet.org;

- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), actively involved in the financing for development process since its inception, organized in cooperation with the NGO working group on financing for development a forum on "Financial stability in the global economy" (New York, 7 September 2001). Email: fesny@fesny.org;

- Danish United Nations Association in cooperation with Kvindernes U-landsudvalg (KULU-Women and Development), Ibis and the Danish Association for International Cooperation (Mallemfolkeligt Samvirke (MS)) is holding a Nordic Conference (Copenhagen, 5 October 2001) on "New goals for global governance". The Danish United Nations Association launched a dedicated web page on financing for development at: http://www.una.dk/ffd/;

- Action for Economic Reforms, Social Watch, Freedom from Debt Coalition, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)-Philippines, Human Development Network in collaboration with the Government of the Philippines and the UNDP Country Office have convened and agreed to form a working group in preparation for the International Conference on Financing for Development. The working group, composed of senior government officials and civil society representatives, is organizing a series of seminars and related activities, culminating in a conference that will finalize and approve the Philippine Government-NGO position on financing for development. The most recent meeting was held from 13 to 15 August 2001 on "civil society agenda-building" (Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines). Civil society representatives presented and discussed different papers relating to financing for development, towards forming the basis of a common NGO position, and discussed it with government officials, with the objective of identifying common strategies. The series of NGO-government meetings will begin in end-September, with follow-through meetings scheduled in November and December. Email: filomenoiii@yahoo.com *or* aer@pacific.net.ph;

- KULU-Women and Development, Denmark (a non-partisan umbrella non-governmental organization including 26 women's organizations and groups, 2 local organizations and an individual membership based in Denmark) is organizing the following conferences/seminars: "Women in the global economy: financing for development — investing in women" (Danish Parliament, Copenhagen, 25 October 2001); "Does trade produce development for women?" (27 October 2001); "Gender budgeting" (January 2002). Email: kulu@kulu.dk; web site: http://www.kulu.dk;

- International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE) is an international coalition of 14 Catholic development organizations based in Belgium, working together with organizations and partners in the South and North. CIDSE and the Caritas Internationalis (CI) Task Group on Social Justice, in addition to regular updates to its members and strategic partners such as international Catholic organizations and partner organizations in the South, planned the following activities: meeting with Mats Karlsson, Vice-President of the World Bank (Brussels, 17 May 2001); seminar with CIDSE-CI Southern partners: "From the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to the Financing for Development Conference in Mexico" (Brussels, 18 May 2001); meeting of a representative of the Mexican NGO Organizing Forum and Belgian NGOs and European networks based in Brussels to discuss the coordination of European NGO activities on financing for development (Brussels, 2 July 2001). Furthermore, CIDSE facilitated the meeting among the Financing for Development Coordinating secretariat and European networks based in Brussels, CIDSE member organizations and Belgian NGOs on the status of the financing for development process and on debt (CIDSE secretariat, Brussels, 12 July 2001); and also the meeting among the Financing for Development Coordinating secretariat and the Swiss NGOs, the Swiss CIDSE member Fastenopfer, the World Council of Churches and Southern NGOs on the status of the financing for development process and on debt (Geneva, 13 July 2001). Future activities include two lunchtime discussions: one on "a poverty-focused approach to debt sustainability analysis" and the other on the "currency transaction tax (CTT)" during the resumed third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference; and the preparation of position papers to be used as a basis for advocacy and lobby work. Web page: http://www.cidse.org/en/index.html;

- CIDSE members at the national level have carried out or are organizing a series of meetings, public hearings, reports and other activities in support of the financing for development process. These activities cover a variety of issues, including those related to official development assistance (ODA), debt relief, conditionality, women and financing for development, and currency transaction taxes. National CIDSE members have reported on their respective activities in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Details may be found on the financing for development web site: http://www.un.org/ffd;

- The Development Policy Forum of the German Foundation for International Development is organizing an international policy dialogue on "Financial Sector Reforms in Response to Globalization" in Berlin on 1 and 2 November 2001. This event — co-sponsored by the German Federal Government — will draw an important group of policy makers and opinion leaders from Governments, multilateral and international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector in all regions of the world;

- The Carter Center's "Global Development Initiative" is convening a Development Cooperation Forum, to be held on 21 and 22 February 2002 in Atlanta, Georgia, to address topics of development cooperation, progress on the international development goals and the need for adequate resources to meet development targets. The Forum will be chaired by former President of the United States of America Jimmy Carter and will involve leading development thinkers and practitioners from the United Nations, the international financial institutions, developing countries, bilateral donors, NGOs, academia, the media and the private sector.

Annex III

Tentative timetable of business sector activities in the financing for development process

A. Activities organized by core interlocutors: World Economic Forum, International Chamber of Commerce and Business Council for the United Nations

Activities as follows:

1. 6 to 8 June 2001: World Economic Forum Regional Meeting. Southern Africa Economic Summit in Durban.

2. September 2001 to February 2002: five round-table meetings organized by Business Council for the United Nations in New York and Washington, D.C. Will cover a range of themes including enhancing financial stability and systems, attracting private capital to developing countries, international taxation and harmonizing business and development objectives. Dates for the first four round tables are 6 September (New York), 11 October (New York), 12 November (Washington, D.C.) and 12 December (New York). These meetings will bring together senior representatives from private corporations (including Wall Street), international organizations and Governments.

3. October/November 2001: regional meetings of the International Chamber of Commerce incorporating financing for development themes. Regional meeting for Africa will take place on 25 and 26 October in Accra, Ghana; the meeting for South Asia will take place on 11 and 12 November in Karachi, Pakistan (with a special focus on FDI); and the meeting for Latin America will take place on 29 and 30 November in Caracas, Venezuela.

4. October/November 2001: regional meetings of the World Economic Forum incorporating financing for development themes. The East Asia Economic Summit will take place in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China from 29 to 31 October 2001. The South Asia Economic Summit will take place in New Delhi, India, from 2 to 4 December 2001.

5. Joint workshop organized by the World Economic Forum and the Departement des finances, République et Canton de Genève. Focuses on whether there is a role for a Tobin tax in the new international financial architecture.

6. March 2002: business forum organized jointly by the International Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council for the United Nations and (possibly) the World Economic Forum. To take place in Monterrey, Mexico, in conjunction with the International Conference on Financing for Development.

B. Other key activities

Activities as follows:

1. 29 May 2001: meeting organized by Money Matters Institute in Boston. Focusing on priorities of foreign and domestic financial services in emerging markets and on key public issues such as domestic capital formation, pension fund privatization, corruption and transparency.

2. 16 July 2001: African Forum for Investment Promotion. Meeting in Geneva.

3. July to September 2001: research project headed by Samuels Associates on the issue of "Improving the quality of information and analysis so as to strengthen decision-making and risk management by international investors and policy makers". Expert group meeting will take place in October/November 2001 and the final findings will be presented to delegates at the United Nations.

4. October 2001: meeting in New York organized by the Social Investment Forum and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions dealing with investment oriented towards social goals.